

# The Research Role of the Librarian at a Community Health Hackathon: A Technical Report

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# Agenda

1. Hackathon Background
2. Paper Inspiration
3. Paper Discussion
4. Key Paper Highlights
5. Q & A Session



# Hackathon Background

A dark blue silhouette of a person wearing a cape, positioned diagonally across the slide. The person is in a dynamic, forward-leaning pose, suggesting speed or action. The cape is large and flows behind them. The background is a solid light blue.

## What is a health hackathon?

A hackathon is a social event that is focused on building **small and innovative technology projects** to solve healthcare problems

## What's involved in a health hackathon?

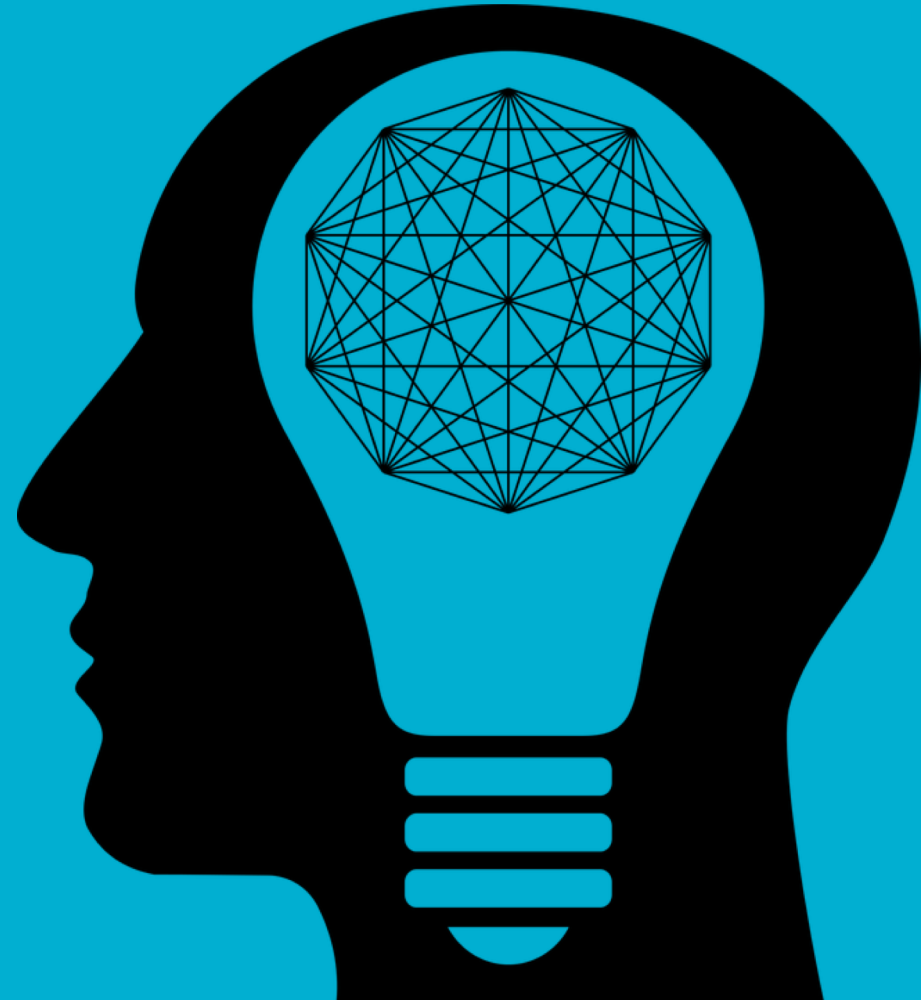
Diverse teams of 4-5 form organically - **the more diverse the skillset the better!**

Teams are given 48 hours to come up with a technological solution to the hackathon's themed problem. The winners are determined by a **panel of judges** based on the quality of a 5-minute problem pitch

# Paper Inspiration

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1. How to make WSU's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine's inaugural Med Hackathon **unique and special** from other health hackathons
  - In researching the structure of other health hackathons, we noticed that integrated and structured library services were always missing from these even



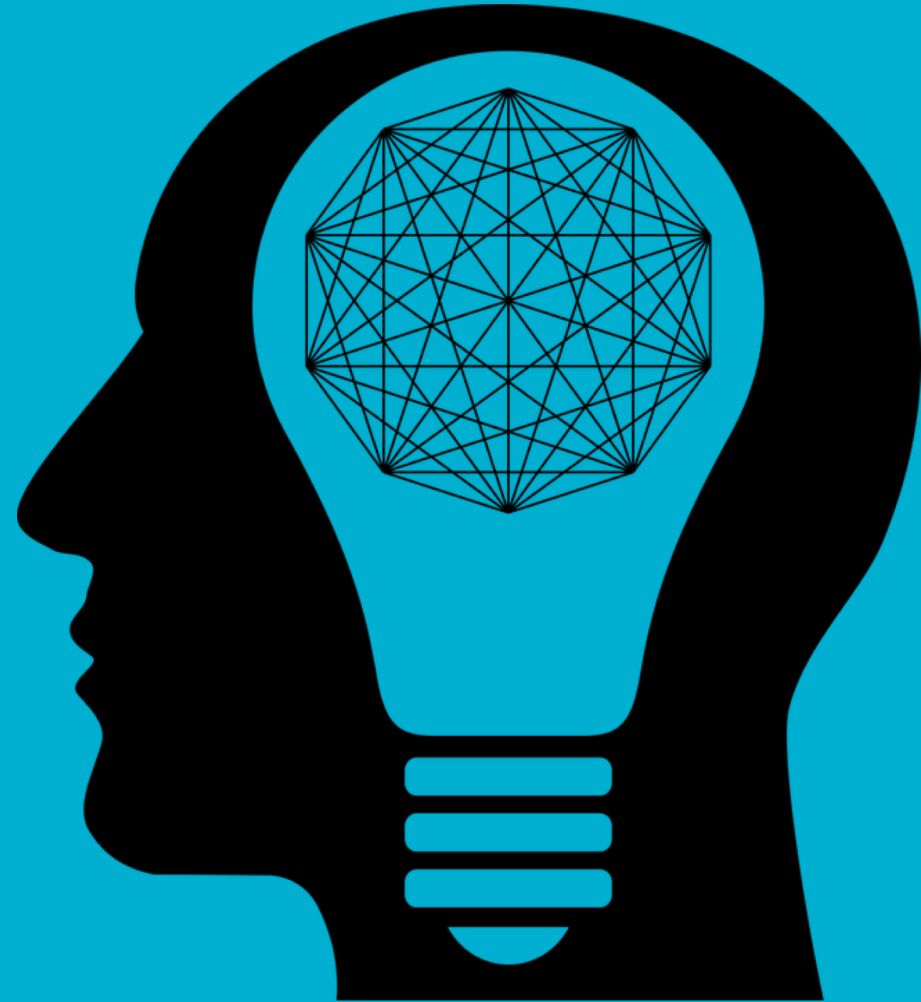


# Paper Inspiration

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## 2. Conversation with NLM's Data Science and Open Science Librarian, Lisa Federer, on the **structure of other NIH hackathons**

- During our research, we spoke to Lisa Federer who has participated in many NIH hackathons



# Paper Discussion

## 1 | Paper Lowdown

In May 2019, we submitted our paper to the Journal of Medical Systems.

As of the time of the PNC/MLA conference, we have not heard back from the journal.

## 2 | Technical Report

Our paper is a technical report that reports on the research role of the librarian at a community health hackathon like the one at WSU's ESFCOM.

Results are based on librarian surveys and observations.

## 3 | Results

Results demonstrate that integrated library services at this community health hackathon was effective as measured by the success of the winning teams and their documented use of library services.



# Key Paper Highlights

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The number of *research consultations* per Research Station librarian ranged from as low as zero to as high as four consultations, with a total of **7 research consultations among all librarians**

- Some teams did not access the Research Station services while other teams accessed the library services multiple times
- The range of reference queries varied from researching the salary of a data consultant to researching mobile apps on body motions



# Key Paper Highlights

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The librarians were able to verify with their respective institutions that their library resources had a **community license**, which permits access to the resources by members of the community

- Access must be mediated by the library or a librarian
- User redistribution of the data was strictly prohibited and enforced by the librarian with a copyright warning

# Key Paper Highlights

## Areas of Success:

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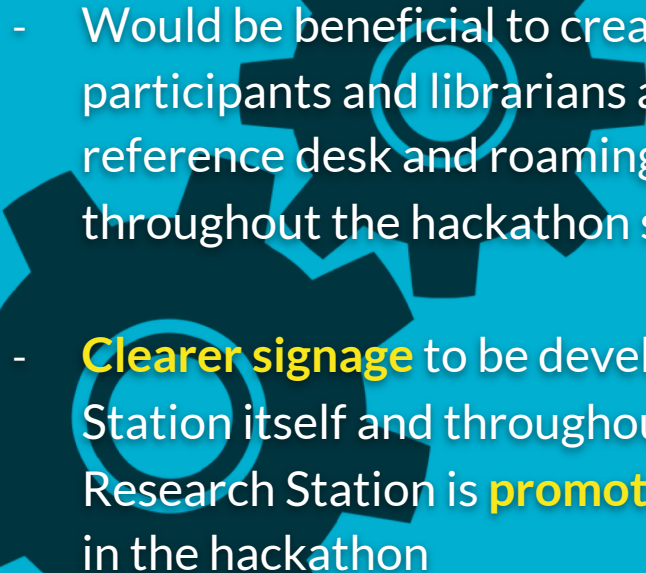
- The **collaboration** among the librarians from multiple institutions with multiple different specialities at the designated Research Station
- The interactions between hackathon participants and the librarians provided the librarians the opportunity to **demonstrate the value** of improving their information literacy
- The involvement of librarians in the hackathon from the beginning of the event allowed them to develop a **familiarity with the various projects** allowing them to prepare searches and resources for the hackathon teams in anticipation of their potential reference questions as the hackathon progressed



# Key Paper Highlights

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## Areas of Improvement:

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- Would be beneficial to create **clearer expectations** for both hackathon participants and librarians about the provision of services (i.e. at the reference desk and roaming reference) both at the Research Station and throughout the hackathon space
  - **Clearer signage** to be developed for the Research Station, both at the Station itself and throughout the hackathon event space and that, the Research Station is **promoted during large-group sessions** scheduled early in the hackathon

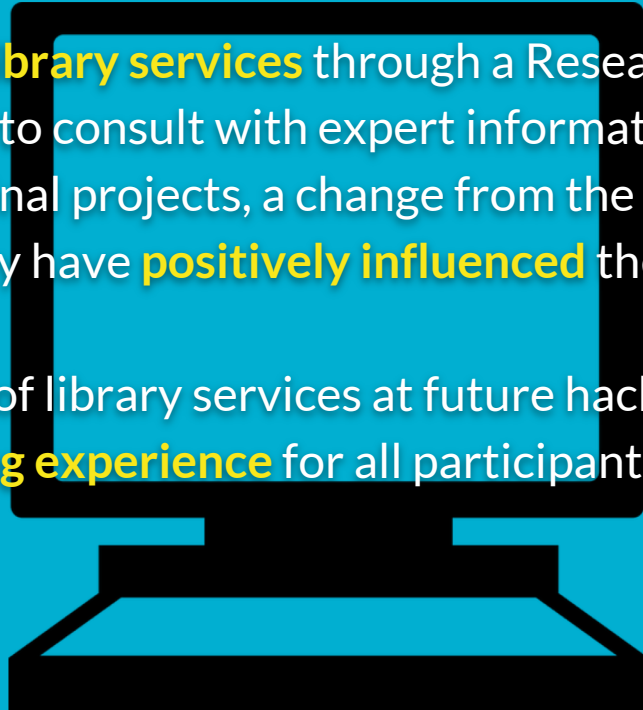


# Key Paper Highlights

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## Takeaways:

- The **inclusion of library services** through a Research Station enabled hackathon teams to consult with expert information professionals as they developed their final projects, a change from the typical hackathon structure that may have **positively influenced** the winners of the event
- The involvement of library services at future hackathons will continue to **enrich the hacking experience** for all participants



# Q & A

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# References

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All images were taken from Bing.com on a “Public Domain” license.

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The End.

